



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact:

**Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Helen White Fitzgibbon
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1562 x 230**

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

VERMONT MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGE

Re: United States v. Robert Cappiallo

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Plainfield Police Chief Gordon Gillens, and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Resident Agent in Charge Clifford Ellston, announced that Robert Cappiallo, DOB 9/25/61, of Windsor, Vermont was sentenced to 21 months in prison after pleading guilty to a federal weapons charge.

On April 7, 2004, a federal grand jury returned an indictment against CAPIALLO charging him with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm on October 10, 2003 in Plainfield, New Hampshire. CAPPIALLO had been previously convicted of a carrying a dangerous weapon, a felony, in Connecticut in March of 2000. Convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition under federal law. On July 6, 2004 CAPPIALLO pled guilty to the charge.

“This case exemplifies this Office’s commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of dangerous felons is one of our main objectives. This office will continue vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire.”

The prosecution against CAPPIALLO, part of the Department of Justice’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” (PSN) initiative, resulted from an motor vehicle stop conducted by the Plainfield, N.H. Police Department. CAPPIALLO was initially charged with Driving While Under the Influence and subsequently found to have a loaded handgun in the vehicle.

The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Helen White Fitzgibbon.